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*Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.*

*Therefore, this*

United States Patent

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*If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.*

*If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.*

*J. Todd Pichini*

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JC872 U. S. PTO  
09/866138  
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US005906407A

**United States Patent** [19]**Schmeichel**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,906,407**[45] **Date of Patent:** **May 25, 1999**[54] **TONNEAU COVER TENSION ADJUSTER APPARATUS**[76] **Inventor:** Charles Milton Schmeichel, P.O. Box 1395, Jamestown, N. Dak. 58402-1395[21] **Appl. No.:** 09/122,874[22] **Filed:** Jul. 27, 1998[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... B60P 7/04[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... 296/100.15; 296/100.18[58] **Field of Search** ..... 296/100.15, 100.18[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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*Primary Examiner*—Gary C. Hoge*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Curtis V. Harr[57] **ABSTRACT**

A tonneau cover is provided that is attached at its most forward end to an adjustable tensioning rail which spans the front end of a pickup truck box. The tensioning rail is adjustably attached at its outside edges to two side rails which are attached to the inside of a pickup box. The adjustable attachment of the tensioning rail to the side rails is accomplished by the use of a tensioning screw and two attachment blocks. As the tensioning screw is moved forwards and backwards by the use of the adjustment knob, the tensioning rail is moved in a corresponding manner. This adjustment is performed when the tonneau cover is in the open position, and thus, allows a user to obtain the desired amount of tightness when the tonneau cover is subsequently placed in the closed position.

**14 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**